

Valse Elégante (No. 2) and Valse Capricieuse (No. 6)
from *Six Valses Caractéristiques, Op. 18*; (ca. 1919; publ. 1921) [1921]

Edward Joseph Collins, composer

Dedicated to Alexander Raab

Notes by Jon Becker, editor for the Collins project

Of the other four Opus 18 waltzes, the composer's biographer Erik Eriksson observed: "Each amply fulfills the promise of its title. Each exhibits both a late-Romantic expansiveness and a striking measure of craftsmanship."

An Opus 18 waltz was performed by Collins during a 12 November 1919 performance, for the Kinsey Morning Musicals at the Ziegfield Theatre. *Chicago Daily News* reviewer Maurice Rosenfield commented:

Not so long ago Edward Collins, the Chicago pianist, returned from overseas service, but it did not take him much time to prepare an interesting and exhaustive program for his recital....[he] projected his intelligent, forceful manner of interpretation, his sure and fleet mechanical equipment, his solid tone, and an entirely new acquisition to his artistic qualities, imagination. There is much more poetry and fancy and a degree of elegance to his playing, which before had always been admirable but much more forthright and businesslike rather than sensitively musical. His waltz made such an impression that he had to repeat it.

Of the same performance, *Chicago Evening America* reviewer Herman Devries wrote:

Handling grenades and guns in this awful business of battle has not harmed the subtleness of his fingers. . . . Mr. Collins disclosed brilliant qualities, which entitle him to the place he seeks among the successful concert pianists of America.

One of a only a small number of Collins works recorded prior to this series, *Valse Capricieuse* was performed by Gunnar Johansen for a 1980 American Conservatory of Music LP (7051 N7), along with Collins's *Cowboy's Breakdown and Tango (in the form of a rondo)*.

The LP opens with the composer's *Concert Piece (Piano Concerto No. 2)*, performed by pianist Mayne Miller, with Thor Johnson conducting the Peninsula Music Festival Orchestra of Door County, Wisconsin. On the back cover there is this note: "This album commemorates the dedication of Collins Hall, American Conservatory of Music, Chicago, May 6, 1977."